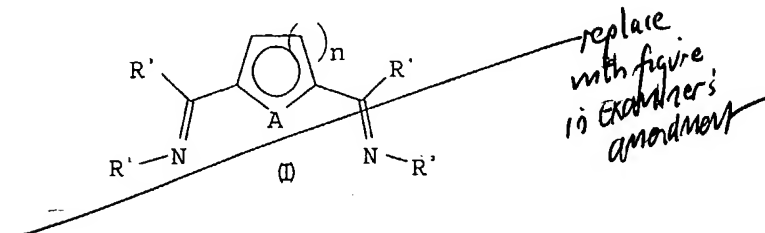


COPY OF ALL CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound of the formula (I)



where the symbols have the following meanings:

A is a nonmetal selected from among N, S, ~~C~~ and P,

R¹ is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶,

R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole in which one or more -CH- groups in the pyrrole ring may be replaced by nitrogen ^{or} and which is substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by C₁-C₆-alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or C₁-C₆-alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted and

R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R³, R⁴ are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

n is 1 or 2.

2. (canceled)

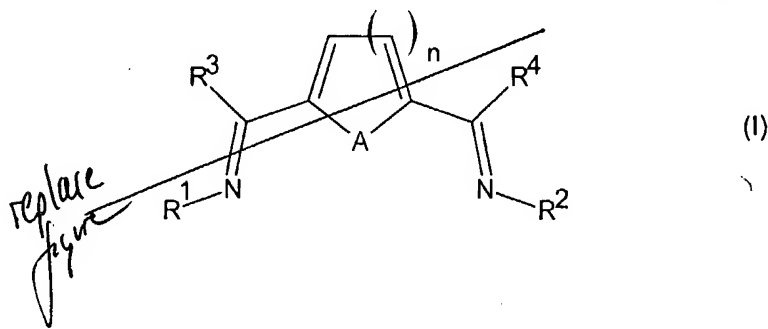
3. (canceled)

4. ² (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pyrrole radicals or radicals derived from pyrrole are substituted in the 2 or 5 position by electron-withdrawing radicals selected from the group consisting of

- halogen,
- trihalomethyl,
- NO₂, and
- sulfonates selected from the group consisting of
 - SO₃R[•],
 - SO₃SiR[•]₃ and
 - SO₃⁻ (H-NR[•]₃)⁺, and
- ~~trihalomethyl~~,

where R[•] may be identical or different and are selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₆-C₂₀-aryl and C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl.

5. ³ (currently amended) A compound of the formula (I) ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~



wherein in the formula (I) of claim 1, ~~A = N and n = 2~~

A is N,

n is 2,

R¹ is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶,

R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

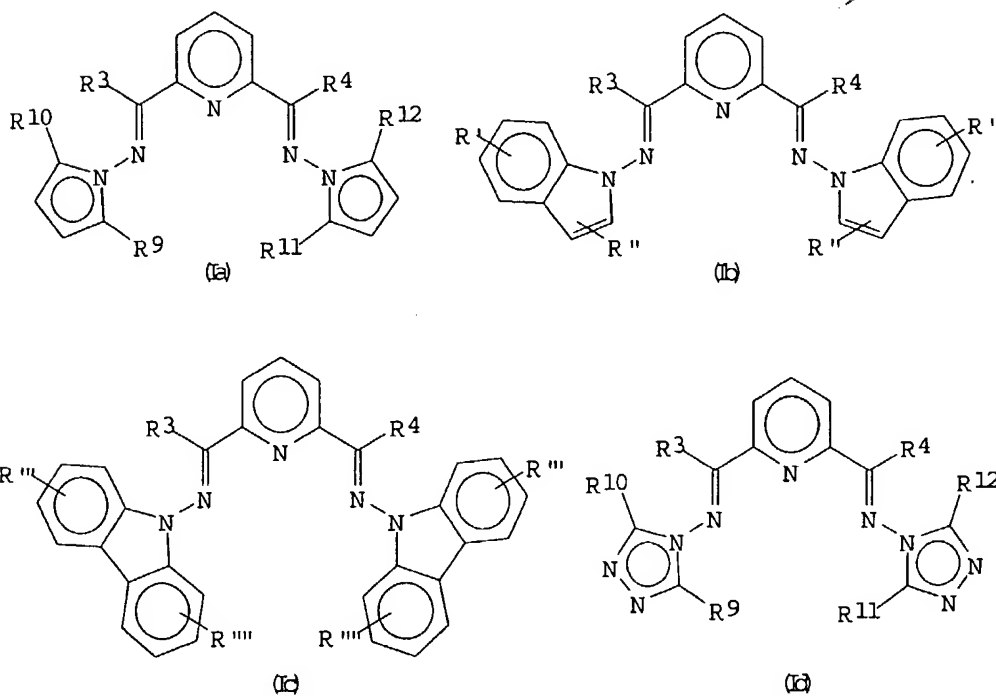
R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in

which one or more of the -CH- or -CH₂- groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ^{carbocyclic} ~~carbocyclic~~ ^{heterocarbocyclic} ~~heterocarbocyclic~~ 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R³, R⁴ are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals.

~~6.~~ ⁴ (currently amended) A compound as ~~claimed in claim 5~~ which corresponds to one of the formulae (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) and (Id):



where

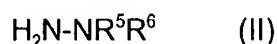
R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl or aryl radicals,

and

R^9, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{12} are, independently of one another, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radicals, and

R', R'', R''', R'''' are H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals.

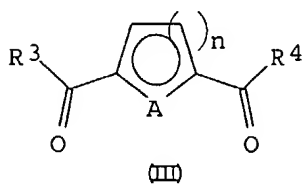
7. (currently amended) A process for preparing symmetrical compounds of the ~~formula (I) of claim 19~~ ⁶ ~~claim 1~~ in which $R^1 = R^2$ by reacting compounds of the formula (II)



where

R^5 and R^6 ~~are as defined in claim 19 together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by C_1 - C_6 -alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted,~~

with compounds of the formula (III)



where

R^3, R^4 are defined as in claim 19, ~~independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and~~

A is N or P, and

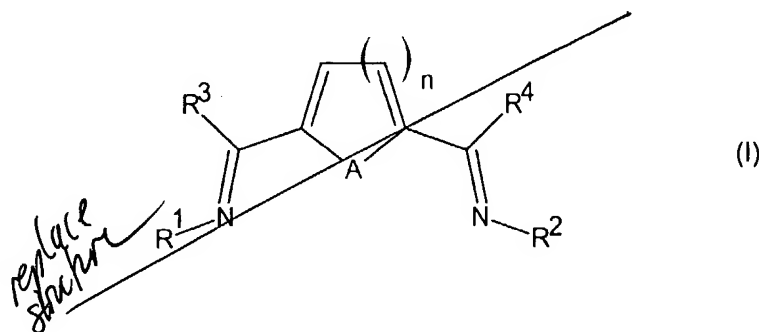
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n is 1 or 2, and

in a single-stage process under acidic reaction conditions in alcoholic solution or in the presence of a trialkylaluminum catalyst in an aprotic solvent in a ratio of the compound of the formula (II) to the compound of the formula (III) of 2:0.7-1.3.

8. ⁵

(currently amended) A process for preparing unsymmetrical compounds of the formula (I)



of claim 1

wherein

A is a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of N, ~~S~~, ~~O~~ and P.

n is 1 or 2.

R¹ is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶.

R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl.

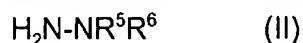
R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in which one or more of the -CH- or -CH₂- groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further carbacyclic or heterocarbacyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted.

R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R³, R⁴ are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals;

in which R¹ ≠ R² in a two-stage process in which

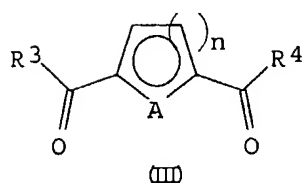
a) in a first step, compounds of the formula (II)



where

~~R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by G₄-G₆-alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or G₄-G₆-alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted;~~

are reacted with compounds of the formula (III)



where

~~R³, R⁴ are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and~~

~~A is N or P, and~~

~~n is 1 or 2,~~

in a mole ratio of the compounds of the formula (II) to the compounds of the formula (III) of 1:0.8-1.2 under acidic conditions in alcoholic solution to form the corresponding monoimine and the solvent is subsequently

removed under reduced pressure,

and

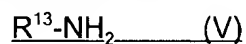
- b) the resulting monoimine is, in a second step, reacted with compounds of the formula (II) which differ from the compounds of the formula (II) used in step a); or with compounds of the formula (IV)



~~where~~

~~R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals,~~

or with amines of the formula (V)



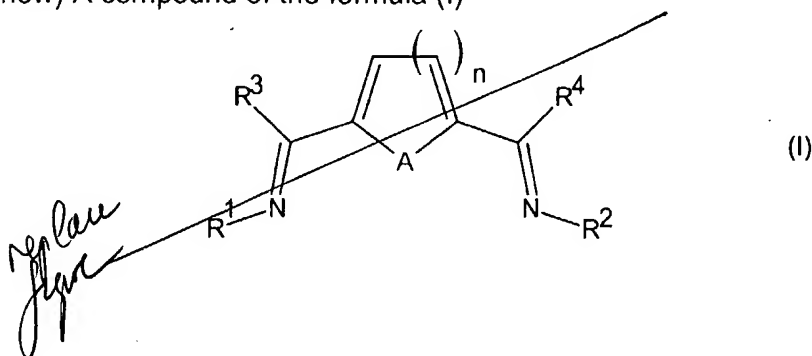
where

R¹³ is an alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radical,

in aprotic solution in the presence of a trialkylaluminum catalyst in a mole ratio of the monoimine to the compound of the formula (II) which differs from the compound of formula (II) used in step a), (IV) or (V) of 1:0.8-1.2.

9.-18. (canceled)

06-23-2004
~~19.~~⁶ (new) A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

A is a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of N and P,
n is 1,
R¹ is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶,
R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,
R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in
which one or more of the -CH- or -CH₂- groups may be replaced by
suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or
unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with
further ~~carbacyclic~~ ^{carbocyclic} or ~~heterocarbacyclic~~ ^{heterocarbocyclic} 5- or 6-membered rings
which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or
unsubstituted,
R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl
radicals, and
R³, R⁴ are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl
radicals;

or wherein

~~A is a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of S, O and P,~~
n is 1 or 2,
R¹ to R⁸ are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,
n is 2,
R¹ is as defined above,
R² is a radical of the formula NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,
R³ to R⁸ are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,
n is 2,

R¹ is as defined above,
R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,
R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a 6- or 7-membered ring in which
one or more of the -CH- or -CH₂- groups may be replaced by
suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or
unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with
further ~~carbocyclic or heterocarbocyclic~~ ^{carbocyclic heterocarbocyclic} 5- or 6-membered rings
which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or
unsubstituted,

R⁷ and R⁸ are as defined above, and

R³, R⁴ are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 1,

R¹ is as defined above,

R² is a radical of the formula NR⁵R⁶ or NR⁷R⁸, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R⁵ and R⁶ together with the N atom form a 5-membered ring in which
none of the other -CH- or -CH₂- groups is replaced by a heteroatom
group, and which may be saturated or unsaturated and
unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ~~carbocyclic or~~ ^{carbocyclic}
~~heterocarbocyclic~~ ^{heterocarbocyclic} 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be
saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R⁷ and R⁸ are as defined above, and

R³, R⁴ are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R¹ is as defined above,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8 , alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl, R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-membered ring in which one or more of the $-CH-$ or $-CH_2-$ groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted and is fused with one or more further ~~carbacyclic or heterocarbacyclic~~ ^{carbocyclic heterocarbocyclic} 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^3 , R^4 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1 - R^4 , R^7 , and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^5 and R^6 , together with the N atom form a ~~pyrrole~~ ^{pyrrole} radical which may be substituted or unsubstituted or fused with further ~~carbacyclic~~ ^{carbocyclic} 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted.